

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Walsoken Urban  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Report of the Sanitary conditions, for the past twelve months ending Dec. 31st, 1919, which I have the honour of submitting to you, brings forth the following remarks :—

We have not experienced anything like the same number of Infectious cases of illness, as we did in the previous year, in a great measure due to the almost entire absence of Measles, which disease you will remember caused considerable anxiety last year.

Reviewing these :—

MEASLES was notified in 17 cases only, compared with the large number of 179 last year, the cases were mild, and no death resulted.

WHOOPING COUGH—There were but few cases of this distressing complaint amongst children.

SCARLET FEVER—This complaint was notified in 18 cases, and it is very gratifying to be able to state that of these cases, 11 were immediately removed to the Isolation Hospital, with very marked benefit to the inhabitants, who show increasing willingness to take advantage of this Institution.

DIPHTHERIA—There were, as during the previous year, five cases of this serious disease and of these three were treated in the Hospital.

TYPHOID FEVER—There were no cases of this illness.

INFLUENZA—There were more cases of this complaint than of any other infectious illness in the District, but the number was very few compared with the previous year, when you will remember we experienced a considerable epidemic outbreak; I am glad to be able to report that the inhabitants, now take infinitely more care in dealing with this illness; and observe that early isolation in separate rooms, with good ventilation, and general sanitary precautions, are most essential and valuable with these cases, fortunately there was only one death recorded, and this in an infant of 2 months old.



There have been no cases of Malaria, Dystentery, Small Pox, or Trench Fever reported.

#### SANITATION.

This is very satisfactory, the District has been kept in a cleanly and healthy condition ; there have been very few complaints of nuisances, which when found have been quickly remedied.

Inspection of the various bakehouses, slaughterhouses, factories, schools and buildings, have revealed few defects, I regret as yet, it has not been possible to have a general place for slaughtering cattle, and so remove entirely complaints from this cause.

You are aware, that now large numbers of hands are employed at the Printing and Jam Factories, but careful attention is maintained in the provision of adequate sanitary arrangements in these works. In connection with these, I have to note, that no flock is manufactured in the District, from rags and materials collected.

The Water Supply, remains as before, good ; and a considerable increasing quantity is now used in the District, and I am glad to find that flush tanks are being more used, although, I would strongly advise that more of these should be installed, wherever possible, the sewers and drains have given no serious trouble, and on the whole have worked satisfactorily.

#### THE TOWN PLANNING ACT.

I observe with pleasure, that you are endeavouring with every means in your power, to remedy as soon as possible, the existing state, of many of the houses in the district, by the provision of new dwellings, so much desired, but at present the difficulties connected herewith seem almost insurmountable ; in the meantime many defects have been remedied, and the Inspector spares no trouble, in endeavouring to keep the dwellings in as habitable a condition as possible ; some few cases of overcrowding have been reported ; but as no new houses have been erected, it is difficulty to at once remedy these ; although some of the houses are not in a good sanitary condition, it has not been deemed desirable to close or demolish any of these.

#### The Supply of Feed Stuffs.

It is gratifying to note, that the supply of food, has on the whole been satisfactory, the meat has been good, and little of it condemned, perhaps the most serious deficiency has been with the Milk Supply, this presents as previously and as in the adjoining Town, a great difficulty, especially as now the Infant welfare is such an important item, the encouragement of a large supply is still most desirable, although the quality leaves little to be desired.



In respect of Births :—

There were 45 males and 28 females born during the year, of these 5 were illegitimate boys, and 3 girls, compared with 61 births the previous year, giving a birth-rate of 19·4 per 1000 of the population.

In respect of Deaths :—

The number of deaths from all causes was 47, which includes the deaths of 11 persons who died away, but who belong to the District, whilst 1 person died who does not belong to the district, giving a death rate of 13 per 1000 of the population, which is estimated to be 3598.

Amongst these deaths are included the deaths of 9 infants, giving an infantile death-rate of 123·2 per 1000, of the births registered. Included in these deaths, Phthisis caused 2, Cancerous Affection 3, Heart Disease 4, Pneumonia 3, and Bronchitis 5 deaths.

I remain Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

HARRY GROOM, M.D.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

